

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Rep. Engle Makes Swift Trip to Southern California

Rep. Clair Engle made a literal and figurative flying trip from Washington to Los Angeles in February to discuss the critical situation in Congress with respect to Colorado River legislation.

Leaving Washington, D.C. by plane at noon on Saturday, February 25, he arrived here that evening and was on his way back to the nation's capital the following Monday, at noon.

While here he conferred with Metropolitan Water District officials and other public officials and civic leaders who are actively engaged in the fight to protect California's share of Colorado River water.

A special meeting was held Sunday in the District's Board room to discuss strategy and tactics for defeat of the dangerous Arizona-sponsored irrigation bills. Participants in this meeting included Chairman Joseph Jensen and the following Metropolitan Water District representatives: Directors Warren W. Butler, Howard D. Mills, Victor H. Rossetti and Franklin Thomas; General Manager Julian Hinds; General Counsel James H. Howard.

Officials of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and other Colorado River Board members attended the important special meeting. The Colorado River Association also was represented.

Rep. Engle, a Democrat, and Rep. Norris Poulson, a Republican, are California's two members on the House Public Lands Committee to which the Arizona project bills have been referred. They have been designated by their party colleagues to be spokesmen for California's Congressional delegation on Colorado River water matters in the crucial fight that looms in the House of Representatives.

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Representative Clair Engle (D) from the 2nd California Congressional District confers with Southern California water leaders. (Left to right) Chairman Franklin Thomas, Colorado River Board of California; President Preston Hotchkis, Colorado River Association; Congressman Engle.—(Los Angeles Mirror photo)

Fantastic Arizona Project Bill Now Pending in House after Passage by Senate

Astunned and indignant Southern California learned on February 21 that the U. S. Senate had voted 55 to 18 in favor of S. 75, the Central Arizona Project bill that had been vigorously opposed by Metropolitan Water District officials and other public water agencies because it would divert water from Los Angeles and 27 other District cities.

"The Senate vote should shock all Southern Californians from any complacency regarding our Colorado River water supply," said Joseph Jensen, chairman of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors.

"We now face the grim fact that the House of Representatives is our last defense against the fantastic Arizona irrigation project," he said.

Jensen immediately urged all Southern California citizens to write to East-

ern friends and business acquaintances, asking those persons to write to their Congressmen against the Arizona project.

"This is a citizens' fight from here on out," he said. "Letters to the East may mean the difference between a plentiful and a drastically reduced share of Colorado River water."

"The Senate vote should be a solemn warning to those who said 'it can't happen here'," was the comment of Franklin Thomas, Pasadena Director for the District and chairman of the official California Colorado River Board.

Thomas seconded the letter writing campaign urged by Jensen.

"We know that all 23 California Congressmen are united on this issue," said Thomas. "However, they need help,

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March is Red Cross month. Be sure and send in your contribution. In some disaster area our dollars will help ease the suffering of innocent victims. The District has always given generously so let's keep our record intact. The District's Red Cross campaign is being carried forward, as usual, under the able direction of Ruth Thiers.

One Sentence Tells It

Actually put up in capsule form in one sentence is a devastating description of the fantastic Central Arizona project.

Prescribed by the Colorado River Association, regular pharmaceutical capsules were distributed to Congressional representatives and to members of the Washington Press Corps. In each capsule, printed on ticker tape, was this one sentence: "The Central Arizona Project proposes to use water which it doesn't own, lift it nearly twice as high as the Washington Monument, convey it farther than from Washington to New York, at a cost to the Federal taxpayers of a billion dollars, to irrigate two hundred thousand acres of privately owned war-boom land, the owners of which would not be required to repay any of the construction costs, to raise crops which are already surplus and subsidized in this country." *It's fantastic . . . but there it is . . . wrapped up in Senate Bill 75 and House Bill 934 . . . now pending in Congress.*

The capsule sentence has attracted nationwide attention. In a recent issue of "Newsweek" magazine, the writer of a two-column analysis of the Senate vote on S. 75 leads off by quoting the brief but potent description of the Arizona project.



Representative Norris Poulson (R) of the 13th Congressional District in Los Angeles. He and Congressman Engle are members of the House Public Lands Committee. (Los Angeles Times photo)

Flying Trip

(Continued from Page One)

Following Rep. Engle's visit, arrangements were made for Rep. Poulson to hold a similar series of conferences here beginning March 10. He had remained in Washington to "hold the line" in keeping the Arizona bill bottled up in committee while his colleague was in California.

The teamwork of these two congressmen typifies the nonpartisan cooperation that has been accorded to the vital Colorado River issue by all 23 California Congressmen, Republicans and Democrats alike, Director Franklin Thomas pointed out.

A busy schedule of conferences with Southern California's leading water authorities has been lined up for Rep. Poulson, it was reported.

Church Group Hears Chairman Jensen

At a dinner February 20 in the Wilshire Country Club thirty members of the Latter Day Saints, heard Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District, emphasize the importance of Colorado River water to Southern California.

Send this issue of the NEWS back east to your friends. Circle their state in the table on page 3.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief engineer Julian Hinds, filed February 1950, covering District operations for January 1950.)

Construction—The hydrostatic test of the 6.84 mile West Basin pipe line was completed on January 24. About 93 per cent of the contract work of the 2.81 mile Victoria Street pipe line has been completed. Construction of the 300 gpm experimental electrolytic plant at La Verne was completed and initial test run started on January 30. The Gene guest house addition was finished and furniture has been purchased.

Hoover Dam—Delivery of energy to the Edison lines totaled 26,390,622 kwhrs with peak delivery of 102,300 kw. The water level in Lake Mead was at elevation 1,162.47 feet on Jan. 31, down 7.65 since Dec. 31 but 4.43 feet higher than one year ago. Usable storage was 18,961,000 acre feet, a decrease for the month of 946,000 acre feet. The discharge of the river at Hoover Dam averaged 20,700 cubic feet per second, compared with 20,000 in December.

Parker Dam—The water level in Lake Havasu was at full reservoir stage until January 20, after which it dropped to elevation 446.8 feet on the last day of the month. The average discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam was 17,800 cfs compared with 19,100 in December. Peak delivery to the Parker system was 40,000 kw.

Pumping—Pumping with one unit per plant was resumed on January 2 and was continued to the end of the month.

Distribution—On January 31 the water level at Lake Mathews was at elevation 1,352.64 feet, and available water storage was 95,079 af, an increase for the month of 1,652 af.

Colorado River water was softened from an average hardness of 326 ppm to 124 ppm at an average rate of 66.5 cfs. Inflow to the plant varied from a maximum of 90.3 to a minimum of 33.7 cfs. Softened water sales in January averaged 61.9 cfs, 10 per cent above December and 16 per cent above January 1949.

Purchasing—In January the purchasing division issued 305 purchase orders and two purchase agreements totaling approximately \$31,500.

Carload forwardings were 17 cars of sodium chloride, two of lime and one of liquid chlorine to the softening and filtration plant.

What Project Would Cost Each State Now Revealed

Here is a table which sets forth the tax burden that will fall upon the people of each one of the 48 states if the so-called Central Arizona Project is built on the fantastic financial basis that is proposed in S. 75 now pending before the House of Representatives.

The third column reveals the cost to the taxpayers in interest on the Government's investment in the project during the period of construction and the long years of amortization, together with the cost to the taxpayers because of the non-reimbursable subsidies proposed in the bill. It should be pointed out here that there is no provision in the bill to pay into the Federal treasury any interest on the enormous investment. But the Government must pay interest, and this charge, figured even at the low rate of 2 per cent, reaches the enormous total of \$1,173,000,000.

There is very little chance that the actual construction cost of the project ever will be repaid out of earnings. Therefore, in addition to the interest charges, the taxpayers will very likely also be forced to pay off the construction cost. This sum, including the cost of an 80-mile tunnel that would be authorized by the pending legislation, would amount to \$1,258,780,000.

Bill Goes to House

(Continued from Page One)

and the most effective support we can give is by asking the voters of other states to write to their own Congressmen against H. R. 934."

Thomas charged that the Arizona project would cost the nation's taxpayers one billion dollars or more. He said 55 per cent of the project benefits would go to 420 Arizona landowners and termed it "fantastic" by all accepted economic and engineering standards.

"On top of that, it would take a water supply that will serve 5,000,000 people in California and give it to about 25,000 people living on some 4,000 Arizona farms," he charged.

The companion House bill to the Senate bill voted last month is awaiting action in a House Public Lands subcommittee, of which Rep. John Murdock of Arizona is chairman. Two Californians, Rep. Norris Poulson of Los Angeles, and Clair Engle of Red Bluff, are members of the subcommittee.

S. 75, the Senate version of the project bill, was promptly referred to this

Arizona Project Hits All Pocketbooks

	Percent of Total	Cost to Taxpayers in Interest and Nonreimbursable Subsidies	Taxpayers Share of Construction Cost
U. S. Total	100.00	\$1,173,000,000	\$1,258,780,000
Alabama	1.17	13,724,000	14,727,726
Arizona	.37	4,340,000	4,657,486
Arkansas	.72	8,446,000	9,063,216
California	8.32	97,594,000	104,730,496
Colorado	.80	9,384,000	10,070,240
Connecticut	1.67	19,589,000	21,021,626
Deleware	.40	4,692,000	5,035,120
Florida	1.29	15,132,000	16,238,262
Georgia	1.40	16,422,000	17,622,920
Idaho	.32	3,754,000	4,028,096
Illinois	7.59	89,031,000	95,541,402
Indiana	2.29	26,862,000	28,826,062
Iowa	1.58	18,533,000	19,888,724
Kansas	1.15	13,490,000	14,475,970
Kentucky	1.20	14,076,000	15,105,360
Louisiana	1.22	14,311,000	15,357,116
Maine	.44	5,161,000	5,538,632
Maryland	1.68	19,706,000	21,147,504
Massachusetts	3.40	39,882,000	42,798,520
Michigan	4.71	55,248,000	59,288,538
Minnesota	1.86	21,818,000	23,413,308
Mississippi	.71	8,328,000	8,937,338
Missouri	2.53	29,677,000	31,847,134
Montana	.35	4,106,000	4,405,730
Nebraska	.86	10,088,000	10,825,508
Nevada	.13	1,525,000	1,636,414
New Hampshire	.29	3,402,000	3,650,462
New Jersey	3.29	38,592,000	41,413,862
New Mexico	.28	3,284,000	3,524,584
New York	14.67	172,079,000	184,663,026
North Carolina	1.59	18,651,000	20,014,602
North Dakota	.34	3,988,000	4,279,852
Ohio	5.78	67,799,000	72,757,484
Oklahoma	1.17	13,724,000	14,727,726
Oregon	1.04	12,199,000	13,091,312
Pennsylvania	7.62	89,382,000	95,919,036
Rhode Island	.56	6,569,000	7,049,168
South Carolina	.76	8,915,000	9,566,728
South Dakota	.36	4,223,000	4,531,608
Tennessee	1.37	16,070,000	17,245,286
Texas	4.38	51,377,000	55,134,564
Utah	.34	3,988,000	4,279,852
Vermont	.18	2,111,000	2,265,804
Virginia	1.49	17,478,000	18,755,822
Washington	1.65	19,354,000	20,769,870
West Virginia	.92	10,792,000	11,580,776
Wisconsin	2.10	24,633,000	26,434,380
Wyoming	.18	2,111,000	2,265,804
District of Columbia,			
Hawaii & Alaska	1.48	17,360,000	18,629,944
			\$1,258,780,000

subcommittee. It was considered possible that S. 75 might be substituted for H. R. 934, on which hearings already have been completed. Both bills are equally objectionable from the California standpoint, it is agreed by local water officials.

Thomas paid tribute to Senators Sheridan Downey (D) and William F. Knowland (R) for their leadership in

the Senate floor fight.

"All California citizens owe a debt of gratitude to our two Senators for the outstanding and tireless efforts they have exerted in the long struggle to protect our Colorado River water supply," he declared.

Thomas also lauded Sen. George W. Malone of Nevada for his firm stand in opposition to the Arizona project bill.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Ralph Stringfellow (1899-1950). This photo, taken a short time before Ralph's passing, shows him with his remarkable collection of firearms, many of which were formerly in the possession of notorious criminals.

A short time after midnight on February 5, Ralph Stringfellow was fatally injured when his automobile plunged off the road on the stretch between Parker Dam and Gene Camp. Ralph went to the great beyond with his boots on. That is the way he would have wanted it to be.

Ralph Stringfellow was one of the Old Guard on the Metropolitan Aqueduct job. He entered the service of the District as its Special Agent in May 1933, when heavy construction work was getting under way on a 250-mile front on the giant aqueduct project. Previous to that he had been a United States Deputy Marshall stationed at Boulder City headquarters for the work then going forward on the construction of Hoover Dam. When he came to work for the District he was assigned to main-

tain law and order on the longest police beat in western United States. It extended all the way from the Colorado river to the aqueduct system on the coastal plain.

During the years that construction work was under way on the aqueduct, Stringfellow's headquarters were in Banning. In those days there were more than a score of District force account and contractors camps, with as many as 10,000 men on the job at one time. It was tough work. Sometimes Ralph had one assistant, but for the most part he worked alone. There were many major District plans and policies that helped prevent crime on the aqueduct job, but Ralph Stringfellow was the officer who put those policies into effect.

He is survived by his widow, Violet.

According to Eddie Dussaman, the stork established his headquarters at Blythe during January in order to assure the safe arrival of Betty Jo Quade, who weighed in on the 26th at eight pounds 2 ounces. Father Frank is employed as a utility man at Iron Mountain.

Eddie further reports that on January 29th a son, William, 5 pounds 14 ounces, joined his own family. The Dussamans also have two daughters, age 5 and 7. Congratulations to both families.

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Word also comes from Iron Mountain that small game in the vicinity is seeking heavier cover. Members of the "Dead-Eye Dicks" Rifle club have been seen oiling up their shootin' irons in preparation of a big season.

* * * *

Vincent G. Preiss, maintenance man at Camino, is recovering from injuries suffered in an automobile accident February 10.

* * * *

Bill Ralph reports from Gene that the weather there has been exceptionally fine and that the fish seem to be bigger and hungrier than ever. Everett Putnam brought home a six pound 15 ounce bass. Everett is keeping his favorite fishing hole a deep dark secret . . . and who wouldn't after such a catch.

* * * *

On February 14, 90 guests attended a Smorgasbord dinner at Gene and later enjoyed an evening of square dancing. How can you do a fast "do-si-do" on pickled herring?

* * * *

Bill Bowlby from Eagle Mountain reports that there isn't much news from his part of the world since everyone has been spending his spare time at the Date Festival in Indio.

* * * *

Mike Weeks and L. A. Ledbetter came home from a fishing trip on Lake Havasu with one (small) fish. Not even big enough for a cup of chowder.

* * * *

Marion Fletcher says that there is no news to report from the Softening Plant since everyone there has been busy working. Isn't that news?

* * * *

Hayfield employees tendered a going-away breakfast January 11 to Cliff Draper who has left the District to return East.